

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01277 231731Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5086

S E C R E T BONN 01277

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: TSPA, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: RE-ENTRY OF SOVIET SATELLITE, COSMOS 954

REF: STATE 017314 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOREIGN OFFICE STATE SECRETARY VAN WELL HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT FRG HAS TAKEN DECISION THAT FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBLE RE-ENTRY OF SOVIET SATELLITE WILL BE PASSED IMMEDIATELY ON STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS TO MINISTERS PRESIDENT AND MINISTERS OF INTERIOR IN ALL LAENDER IN FRG. VAN WELL SAID THIS STEP IS CONSIDERED NECESSARY UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES BUT THAT EVERY PRECAUTION WILL BE TAKEN TO TAKE SUCH ACTION WITHOUT CAUSING UNDUE ALARM. CONTACT POINTS WILL BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN EACH MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN LAENDER AND FRG MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN BONN.

2. FRG IS ALSO TAKING SIMILAR ACTION TO ADVISE APPROPRIATE MILITARY COMMANDS OF BASIC INFORMATION.

3. IN VIEW OF SPECIAL STATUS OF BERLIN, VAN WELL REQUESTED THAT U.S. TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN AMERICAN SECTOR OF BERLIN TO ADVISE BERLIN AUTHORITIES. SIMILAR REQUEST WILL BE MADE BY FRG TO UK AND FRENCH. IN VIEW
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OF TIME URGENCY, I HAVE AUTHORIZED PROVISION OF BASIC INFORMATION TO U.S. MISSION BERLIN FOR PASSING ON CLOSE-HOLD BASIS TO BERLIN SECURITY AUTHORITIES.

4. VAN WELL SAID FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER FEELS STRONGLY THAT, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, GOVERNMENTS OF SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA SHOULD BE INFORMED OF FACTS

AND PROBABILITIES, SINCE THESE COUNTRIES
LIE IN ORBITAL PATH OF SATELLITE. I SAID I WOULD CONVEY
THIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

5. VAN WELL CONFIRMED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN,
IN RESPONSE TO VAN WELL'S URGENT REQUEST, HAS PROVIDED
DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING SATELLITE.

6. VAN WELL COMMENTED THAT FRG IS STUDYING LEGAL
ASPECTS OF QUESTIONS RAISED BY THIS INCIDENT WITH
REFERENCE TO TREATY OF OUTER SPACE AND NPT. HE
BELIEVES THAT THERE SHOULD BE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
OUR LEGAL EXPERTS IN DUE COURSE WITH REGARD TO THIS
SUBJECT.

7. WHEN I SAW CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT THIS AFTERNOON ON
OTHER SUBJECTS, HE RAISED SITUATION CONCERNING SOVIET
SATELLITE WITH ME AND ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT INFORM AUSTRIAN
AND SWISS EMBASSIES OF SITUATION IF THIS HAS NOT
ALREADY BEEN DONE. CONSIDERATION MIGHT ALSO BE GIVEN
TO INFORMING OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH LIE IN ORBITAL
PATH OF SATELLITE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SATELLITES, CAT-B, COSMOS 954, NUCLEAR HAZARDS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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